

Planting more Trees

†2198. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any effective plan to encourage people for planting more trees in rural areas in view of the environmental importance of trees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) People's participation has been made a central and integral part of all plantation projects under the major afforestation schemes (viz. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These schemes provide upto 25 percent of the plantation cost of taking up entry point activities for building up awareness etc. amongst local communities, and microplanning with association of panchayats or other village level bodies. Under the central sector scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies, funds are provided to non-governmental organisations for raising trees on private/community/government lands adjacent to forests as per the scheme guidelines and cost norms.

Encroachment around Kaziranga National Park

2199. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reserve land in and around Kaziranga National Park in Assam is allowed for unauthorized settlement;

(b) if so, the number of settlers occupying the land both legally

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

and illegally;

(c) whether Government are aware that poaching and other illegal activities are more encouraged by these settlers;

(d) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests permitted such huge illegal encroachment in the protected area; and

(e) if not, the action contemplated to evict and protect this National Park from illegal encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam some revenue land in Bandardhubi, Baghmari villages in Magaan Districts adjacent to Kaziranga National Park is under encroachment. However there is no unauthorised settlement inside the originally notified area of 430 sq.km. of Kaziranga National Park.

(b) There are about 50,000 settlers within the first and sixth addition to the Kaziranga National Park for which final notification has been issued. The estimated number of encroachers in the second addition to Kaziranga National Park is approximately 500. The final notification for this addition has not been issued so far.

(c) As informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, the settlers are involved in illegal fishing and grazing. Some of these encroachers are also involved in poaching activities.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The encroachers have taken stay orders against their eviction from the Hon'ble Guwahati High Court. The State Forest Department is taking necessary action for vacation of the said stay orders.